

**STATE SENATOR • RAYMOND E. BASHAM • 8TH DISTRICT**

# **Basham Press Release**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
STATE SEN. RAY BASHAM  
STATE REP. HOON-YUNG HOPGOOD**

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## **BASHAM, HOPGOOD EXPRESS DISAPPOINTMENT IN APPROVAL OF EDS LAND BAN EXEMPTION**

(LANSING)- State Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor) and State Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood (D-Taylor) issued a joint statement today expressing their grave disappointment in the decision by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to approve a federal land ban exemption permit requested by Environmental Disposal Systems (EDS). Both legislators characterized the EPA's premature decision as a serious error in judgment that may put Michigan's environment and public health at risk.

"It concerns me that the EPA would make such a highly controversial and unwelcomed decision at this point in time when there are still many unresolved public health concerns and serious conflicts with the nearby Sunoco facility," said Sen. Basham. "The environmental risks involved with hazardous waste injection are very real and the Michigan public is not well served by the regulatory decision handed down by the EPA today."

EDS requested a land ban exemption for its proposed Romulus facility so it could inject liquid hazardous waste underground into the Mt. Simon formation. The EDS request was complicated last spring when Sunoco was granted a permit by the Department of Environmental Quality to

operate brine disposal and extraction wells in the same formation. The EPA decision to allow hazardous waste injection may now put Sun's extraction project in jeopardy.

"It's unfortunate that the EPA chose to grant the EDS permit at a time when Sunoco was still in the process of constructing their extraction wells," said Rep. Hopgood. "Sunoco has operated safely in our community for approximately 50 years. I feel Sun should have been rewarded for good corporate citizenship by being allowed to move forward without this cloud over their heads."

Sen. Basham and Rep. Hopgood also made it a point to thank Congressman John Dingell (D-Dearborn) for his assistance and guidance throughout the complex federal EPA approval process. EDS must next go before the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to request an operating permit before any hazardous waste dumping can begin.

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